Agent Acted as Smuggler of

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Among the passengers on a jetliner that landed at Dulles Airport Saturday night was a federal narcotics agent who had been promised $96,000 to smuggle into this country 264 pounds of pure heroin, enough to supply Washington's addicts for two years.

It was the second time in two weeks that the agent, posing as an Army sergeant who regularly flies here on military errands, had made the trip from Brussels, agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) said yesterday.

The agent had already made a dry run in a bizarre plot in which he was to select two "dropoff" sites in Washington where he would give three steel footlockers to New York drug dealers. The footlockers were to contain heroin worth $50 million on the street.

The agent was to have carried the footlockers aboard an Air Force jet assigned to a general in the Brussels NATO command and, after being waved through customs at Andrews Air Force Base, was to deposit them either at a motel parking lot, in Northwest or at a parking lot in Southeast.

After the dry run, the agent returned to Brussels to make an elaborate "Belgian connection" involving a Paris businessman and a 34-year-old Corsican, both alleged to be major international heroin traffickers.

The plot was broken up Sunday, BNDD officials said, with the arrest of five men in New York and two others in Paris.

Officials called it one of the largest drug smuggling schemes ever uncovered.

BNDD agents here said the case began in February when the Parisian businessman, Christian Frederick, 34, and the Corsican, Gilbert Ibarra, approached an Army sergeant assigned to the NATO headquarters and offered him $96,000 to smuggle 120 kilos of heroin into the United States.

The sergeant alerted authorities, and a federal narcotics undercover agent was introduced as a substitute who would make a better courier because of his access to a general's aisplane, the BNDD spokesman said.

Officials said the agent told the European contacts that he regularly flew to Washington aboard the airplane and could pass customs unchallenged. The BNDD said the agent was given a uniform and that arrangements were immediately made with NATO to obtain a staff plane for the trip.

A general in NATO was even prepared to make a flight with the agent if it appeared the operation was being watched by the European contacts, BNDD sources said.

Pure Heroin to Uncover Plot

Two weeks ago, authorities said, the agent came to Washington at the request of the sellers and picked the two dropoff points.

But when he returned, officials said, the agent was told of an alternate plan in which he was to fly to Washington with the heroin, rent a car and drive to New York for the transfer.

BNDD officials said that when the three footlockers containing heroin were delivered Saturday to the agent in Brussels, all but three half-kilo packages were immediately seized.

The agent immediately boarded a commericial jet to Dulles, carrying the 1½ kilos of heroin.

Sources in the BNDD said the plan to have the agent board a military airplane was scrapped because it was evident the agent was not being watched by the European contacts.

While the agent was en route, BNDD officials here found three footlockers identical to the ones seized in Brussels and packed them with 237 packages of lime, to simulate heroin.

On Sunday, the 1½ kilos of heroin were packed in the footlockers and the agent drove in a rented car from Washington to New York, the BNDD said. He was followed in other cars by teams of agents.

The agent drove to a previously selected spot on Third Avenue in New York, where the car was taken over by one of the five heroin wholesalers charged in the case, the BNDD said.

Other agents followed that suspect to another location in New York, where the car was again transferred, officials said. Finally, at a location in the Queens, all five suspects charged in the case were arrested and the footlockers were recovered.

The suspects were identified as Gilbert Bornstejn, 40, a Paris antique dealer; Richard Ben Soudon, 30, a Parisian taxi driver; Enrique Berrara, of New York; Jesus Enriquez, of New York, and Philip A. DeLuca, of New York.

All were charged with federal narcotics offenses and are being held in bonds ranging from $300,000 to $1 million. The other two suspects were charged in Europe.

A BNDD agent who coordinated the Washington phase of the transfer said that New York is Washington's major source for heroin, but that he had no way of telling how much of the 264 pounds scheduled for redistribution here after being diluted and packaged.

He said that the European contacts had selected Washington for the dropoff point but that the "customers" in New York apparently had asked for implementation of the alternate plan of delivering the contraband directly to them.